

REMARKS

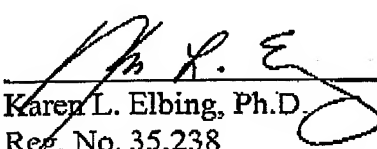
Claims 1-9 and 15-23 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution of the present application. For the record, Applicant does not agree with the Office on the present rejections, and plans to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. In particular, independent claims 10-13 have been indicated to be allowable; all other currently pending claims are dependent on these allowed claims.

Enclosed is a petition to extend the time for replying to this Action by one month, to and including January 15, 2004. This charge, as well as any other charge or credit, may be applied to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 Janay 2004


Karen L. Elbing, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 35,238

Clark & Elbing LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045

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